

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An information management method managing information of a recording medium by an information management apparatus, the recording medium having medium-specific information, and comprising a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of arbitrary information in accordance with external instructions, and a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions, said information management apparatus having a write and read out means writing the arbitrary information to and reading the arbitrary information from said user-use area, and a predetermined information deriving means deriving the predetermined information stored in said secure area, comprising:

storing an encrypted electronic data to the user-use area of the recording medium as the arbitrary information;

storing license information based on use rights for using the encrypted electronic data stored in the user-use area to the secure area of the recording medium as the predetermined information;

deriving the license information outside said secure area of the recording medium and encrypting the license information stored in the secure area using medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom; and

storing the encrypted license information to the user-use area or other recording medium;
wherein the information management apparatus encrypts and stores license information to the user-use area, decrypts the encrypted license information stored in the user-use area using the medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, and updates the license information stored in said secure area.

2 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (currently amended) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said license information is encrypted using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and is stored in ~~said a~~ second area.

6. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 1, wherein said license information is encrypted using an apparatus-specific information or a key generated therefrom, wherein the apparatus drives said recording medium.

7 and 8. (Canceled)

9. (currently amended) The information management method of claim 7~~1~~, wherein, when said license information is to be derived outside said secure area, the information management apparatus encrypts the license information using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and apparatus-specific or said key generated therefrom.

10. (currently amended) ~~The A~~ information management method managing information of a recording medium by an information management apparatus, the recording medium having medium-specific information, and comprising a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of arbitrary information in accordance with external instructions, and a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions, said information management apparatus having a write and read out means writing the arbitrary information to and reading the arbitrary information from said user-use area, and a predetermined information deriving means deriving the predetermined information stored in said secure area, comprising:

storing an encrypted electronic data to the user-use area of the recording medium as the arbitrary information;

storing license information based on use rights for using the encrypted electronic data stored in the user-use area to the secure area of the recording medium as the predetermined information;

deriving the license information outside said secure area of the recording medium and encrypting the license information stored in the secure area using medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom; and

storing the encrypted license information to the user-use area or other recording medium; of claim 1,

wherein if said license information is encrypted and stored in said user-use area, said license information is decrypted using said apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording medium or said key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom, and said license information stored in said secure area is updated.

11. (previously presented) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said license information is encrypted and stored on a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

12. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 11, wherein said license information encrypted and stored in said second recording medium is decrypted using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and said license information stored in said secure area is updated.

13. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 11, wherein, when said license information is to be derived on said second recording medium, said license information is encrypted using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

14. (previously presented) The information management method of claim 13, wherein said license information encrypted and stored in said second recording medium is decrypted using an apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom, and said license information stored in said secure area is updated.

15. (currently amended) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein said medium-specific information ~~can be~~ is electronically obtained from said recording medium and is visually displayed on said recording medium.

16. (currently amended) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said recording

medium can be electronically obtained from said apparatus and is visually displayed on said apparatus.

17. (previously presented) The information management method according to claim 13, wherein said apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium can be electronically obtained from said second apparatus and is visually displayed on said second apparatus.

18. (currently amended) An information management apparatus ~~having~~using a medium having medium-specific information, and comprising a user-use area allowing writing and reading out of arbitrary information in accordance with external instructions and a secure area that is not subject to control by external instructions, said information management apparatus managing information of a recording medium wherein license information based on use rights for said arbitrary information stored in a user-use area is stored in said secure area, said information management apparatus comprising:

write and read out means writing said arbitrary information to and reading said arbitrary information from said user-use area; and

predetermined information deriving means encrypting said license information stored in said secure area using said medium-specific information or a key generated therefrom, deriving said encrypted license information outside said secure area and storing the encrypted license information in the user-use area of the recording medium or another recording medium;

wherein said license information is encrypted and stored by said write and read out means in said user-use area.

19. (Canceled)

20. (currently amended) The information management apparatus of claim ~~19~~18, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said license information encrypted and stored in said user-use area using said medium-specific information and updating said license information stored in said secure area.

21. (previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 18, comprising apparatus-specific information, wherein said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or said

key generated therefrom and said apparatus-specific information specific to the apparatus or a key generated therefrom.

22. (currently amended) The information management apparatus of claim 21, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said license information encrypted and stored in said user-use area using said apparatus-specific information or said key generated therefrom and information specific to said apparatus or a key generated therefrom and said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and updating said predetermined information stored in said secure area, if the license information is encrypted and stored in said user-use area.

23. (previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 18, wherein said predetermined information deriving means transmits said encrypted license information to a second recording medium different from said recording medium.

24. (previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 23, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said license information encrypted and stored in said second recording medium using said medium-specific information and updating said license information stored in said secure area.

25. (previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 23, wherein an apparatus that drives said second recording medium comprises apparatus-specific information and said predetermined information deriving means encrypts said license information using said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and information specific to the apparatus that drives said second recording medium or a key generated therefrom.

26. (previously presented) The information management apparatus of claim 25, further comprising predetermined information update means decrypting said license information encrypted and stored in said second recording medium using the apparatus-specific information specific to an apparatus that drives said second recording medium or said key derived therefrom and said medium-specific information or said key generated therefrom and updating said license information stored in said secure area.

27. (currently amended) The information management method according to claim 1, wherein the a second area outside the secure area is external to the recording medium.

28. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the area outside the secure area is external to the recording medium.

29. (Cancelled)